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LETTER DATED 7 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from His Excellency Mr. Vladislav Jovanović, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 2 August 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

In connection with the letter of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia of 20 July 1995 (S/1995/601), I would like to point out that it is yet another transparent attempt of the Croatian side to divert attention from its own responsibility for the escalation of war in former Bosnia-Herzegovina and for heightening tension in the relations with the Republic of Serbian Krajina by falsely accusing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

As is well known, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has confirmed in many of its reports that there have been no units or troops of the Army of Yugoslavia outside its borders since May 1992. Besides, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia sends no military shipments to the Republic of Srpska and the Republic of Serbian Krajina, which has also been repeatedly confirmed in United Nations monitors' reports. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has not forcibly mobilized personnel for the Republic of Serbian Krajina. What the competent Yugoslav authorities did do was to deny further hospitality to a number of persons who were not citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and were established not to have refugee status, i.e., that they had not regulated their stay in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

On the other hand, there is abundant evidence about Croatia's direct involvement in the crisis in former Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is widely known (and confirmed by UNPROFOR) that Croatian regular military units have been deployed in former Bosnia-Herzegovina since the beginning of the civil war, in flagrant violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. It is also a fact that the armed forces of the Bosnian Croats (Croatian Defence Council) are under the outright command of the General Staff of the Croatian Army since the so-called Republic of "Herceg-Bosna" is de facto an integral part of the Croatian State despite the formal recognition of former Bosnia-Herzegovina by Croatia. The falsehoods and fabrications from the letter of the Croatian Foreign Minister are meant to conceal these facts and to provide a smokescreen for even larger Croatian military interference in the war in former Bosnia-Herzegovina and against the Republic of Serbian Krajina.

Of particular concern is the latest aggressive action of the Croatian armed forces which attacked the Republic of Srpska (Grahovo and Glamoc) with more than 10,000 troops. Fleeing the Croatian aggression, over 20,000 Serbs were forced to leave their ancestral homes. In this way, Croatia demonstrated once again that, despite its public pronouncements, it continues to pursue the war option and that it is not genuinely interested in a political and peaceful solution to the crisis. The ruthless aggressive policy of Croatia was shown for what it is also during the assault on Western Slavonia when the army of the Republic of Croatia committed mass-scale atrocities against the Serbian people.

This policy of Croatia has dangerously exacerbated the otherwise difficult situation and seriously threatens the efforts of the international community to

put an end to the war and reach a peaceful solution of the Yugoslav crisis. The United Nations Security Council is duty-bound to see to it that Croatian armed forces are withdrawn from former Bosnia-Herzegovina immediately and unconditionally and to prevent its attacks on the Republic of Serbian Krajina.

I would like to point out also on this occasion that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continues to be committed to a political solution and the resumption of negotiations as the only way out of the crisis. We therefore expect and demand that the Security Council take an objective and balanced position and treat equally all three sides in the civil war, which is the only realistic way for achieving a just, viable and lasting solution.

Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ